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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT PERCENT OF THE N. C. CORN ACREAGE WAS PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED IN 1950?
2. WAS THERE ANY NOTICEABLE CHANGE IN FEED PRICES DURING JULY?
3. COMPARE JUNE 15 FOOD PRICES WITH PRICES A YEAR EARLIER.
4. GIVE JUNE COMMERCIAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION.
5. WHAT IS THE JULY 15 ALL FARM PRODUCTS INDEX?
6. WHAT IS THE U. S. PARITY RATIO FOR JULY?
7. DID FARM WAGE RATES INCREASE FROM JULY 1, 1949 TO JULY 1, 1950?
8. HOW MANY COLONIES OF BEES ARE THERE IN NORTH CAROLINA?
9. WERE JULY 1 GRAIN STOCKS HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR?

NO. 66

RALEIGH, N. C.

AUGUST 5, 1950

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

FARM WAGE RATES UP SLIGHTLY

North Carolina farmers reported that on July 1 they were paying \$3.45 per day for hired labor with house furnished - this is an increase of 5 cents per day over wages paid a year ago. Average hourly wage rate of 48 cents was being paid labor without room and board compared with 46 cents a year earlier. The daily wage rate for labor without room and board was also up. Daily rates being paid on July 1 of this year were \$4.15 compared with \$4.10 paid on July 1, 1949.

Farm employment of hired workers was down from last year in all regions except the West North Central States where a slight increase was noted. The number of unpaid family workers was also down in all regions except the Mountain States. Total farm employment continues its downward trend in the United States - a total of 11,692,000 persons were employed on U. S. farms during the last full week of June this year, 4 percent below the total employed during a comparable period last year and 6 percent below the five year 1945-49 average.

DAILY AND HOURLY FARM WAGE RATES N. C.

AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES COMPARED

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	JULY 1 1950	JULY 1 1950
NORTH CAROLINA		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE.....	3.40	3.45
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.....	4.10	4.15
PER HOUR: WITH HOUSE.....	.46	.48
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE.....	3.25	3.25
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.....	3.90	3.90
PER HOUR: WITH HOUSE.....	.47	.48

JULY BROILER PRODUCTION HIGH

Broiler production continued on a high level in the Chatham-Wilkes commercial broiler areas during July. Placements with broiler producers in (Continued on Page 4)

STATE BEE COLONY NUMBERS DOWN 2 PERCENT

North Carolina's farm and non-farm bee keepers had 185,000 colonies of bees on hand July 1, a decrease of 2 percent from the 189,000 colonies on hand a year earlier. A total of 22,000 new colonies were added in the spring but these were off-set by losses of 22,000 colonies during the winter and spring months. These losses were much heavier than for either of the past two years.

The decline in colony numbers from the preceding year resulted from some large bee keepers reducing their colony holdings because of low prices received for honey and continued high cost of supplies.

Based on July 1 reports, the condition of colonies at 83 percent was up from the 78 percent of normal reported for the same date last year. Condition of nectar plants was 79 percent compared with a condition of 72 percent for the July 1, 1949. Weather conditions during the spring months were much more favorable to growth and flowering of nectar plants than during the same period last year.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION DOWN SEASONALLY

A total of 3,861,000 chicks were produced by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during the month of June. This was a decrease of 28.5 percent from the 5,400,000 hatched during May and 2 percent below June hatchings a year ago. However, last month's production represented a 35 percent increase over the five-year (1944-48) average.

With flock replacements now generally completed, most chicks produced during the balance of the year will be used by the commercial broiler industry. The demand for broiler chicks remains strong and the number of chicks placed in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial Broiler areas during the last week of June was the highest of record.

During the first six months of 1950, commercial hatcheries in the state produced 33,307,000 chicks. This was an increase of 9 percent over the 30,510,000 chicks produced during the same period last year.

TAR HEEL TOBACCO MARKETS BEGIN 1950 SEASON



PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1950
WITH COMPARISONS.

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		JUNE 15 1950	JULY 15 1950	JULY 15 1950
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.54	1.58	1.44
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.15	2.08	1.99
OATS.....	BU.	.87	.84	.763
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.27	1.24	1.15
RYE.....	BU.	2.03	1.90	1.26
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.40	2.50	2.93
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.80	5.00	4.17
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.121	.122	.109
COTTON.....	LB.	.32	.342	.331
COTTONSEED.....	TON	50.00	50.00	52.00
WOOL.....	LB.	.51	.51	.571
HOGS.....	CWT.	18.00	21.50	21.50
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	19.10	21.00	24.50
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	24.60	25.60	26.70
SHEEP.....	CWT.	9.90	10.50	10.40
LAMBS.....	CWT.	24.20	25.40	24.60
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	137.00	148.00	199.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.249	.270	.234
EgGS.....	DOZ.	.359	.408	.342
MILK, WHLSE RETAIL.....	CWT.	4.50	4.55 <i>a/c</i>	3.57 <i>a/c</i>
BUTTER.....	LB.	.196	.20	.182
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.52	.54	.562
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	26.50	28.50 <i>b/</i>	19.90 <i>b/</i>
POTATOES.....	BU.	.95	.80	1.27
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.30	2.30	2.08
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	2.50	2.00	2.65
LESPEDIZA SEED.....	CWT.	8.40	9.70	7.70
KOREAN.....	CWT.	6.20	7.40	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	10.30	11.70	-
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	17.00	18.30	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	18.00	19.50	-

*a/ Preliminary.**b/ The all hay prices is the weighted average of separate kinds, including an allowance for minor kinds.**c/ Estimated averages for the month.*

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED JUMP 16 POINTS
PARITY INDEX UP SLIGHTLY

Generally higher prices for most agricultural commodities resulted in the sharpest monthly increase in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers since March 1947. At 263 percent of its 1910-14 average this index is at the highest level in 18 months, 6½ percent above a month ago and 6.9 percent above a year ago.

Sharpest price upturns were registered for hogs, cotton, and eggs, but sizable increases were also noted for wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, cattle, calves, and chickens. Principal commodities showing downturns in prices during the month were oats, grain sorghums, hay, flaxseed, oranges, lemons, and butterfat. Some of the sharp increases in average prices received by farmers this month are the result of the bolstering of an already high demand by the reaction to the Korean situation. However, supply factors such as the smallest wheat crop since 1943, a 31 percent decrease in cotton acreage, and a much larger than average oat crop also had their effect on price changes for individual commodities. The price increases for wheat, rice, rye, cottonseed, cattle, and eggs were contra-seasonal while those for cotton, hogs, and calves were greater than seasonal.

The Parity Index (Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates) rose 1 point and is now 256 percent of the 1910-14 average. Prices for feed, food, and building materials were higher, reflecting a slight reduction in prospective feed production, a strong demand for food, and a record rate of home building. The Index of Farm Wage Rates on July 1 was 2 points higher than three months earlier.

As a result of the sharp increase in prices received by farmers and a small rise in prices paid, the Parity Ratio increased 6 points in the past month and is now 103, -- 5 points above a year ago.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	JUNE 15 1950	JULY 15 1950	JULY 15 1949	JULY 15 1948	JULY 15 1947	NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS	
						UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS	
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	241	251	237	264	267		
COTTON & COTTONSEED	248	263	241	271	286		
GRAINS.....	184	181	166	211	209		
MEAT ANIMALS.....	359	402	356	404	327		
POULTRY.....	194	217	252	262	256		
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	215	220	217	234	214		
TOBACCO.....	.	.	.	-	.		
MISCELLANEOUS.....	230	223	222	236	235		
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID... <i>a/</i>	95	98	97	106	116		
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS							
PRICES RECEIVED....	247	263	249	301	276		
PRICES PAID INTEREST & TAXES..	255	256	244	251	230		
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID... <i>b/</i>	97	103	102	120	120		

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 10 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets increased from 241 as of June 15 to 251 as of July 15. The same index on July 15, 1949 was 237 and on July 15, 1948 the index was 264. Hence, the current index is 14 points above the same date a year ago and 14 points below the index on July 15, 1948.

The increase of 10 points in the "All Farm Products" index was the result of increased prices being received in 4 of the 6 commodity groups.

The grains commodity index decreased 3 points as the result of lower prices received for wheat, oats, barley and rye. Corn increased from \$1.54 to \$1.58 per bushel.

The cotton and cottonseed index increased 15 points owing to an increase of slightly over two cents in cotton prices. The price of cottonseed at \$50.00 per ton remained the same as June 15.

The meat animals index increased 43 points and led all commodities in the amount of increase from June 15 to July 15. The meat animals index at 402 compares with 356 on July 15, 1949 and 404 on July 15, 1948.

The poultry index increased 23 points as the result of increased prices for both chickens and eggs. Eggs increased seasonally about 5 cents per dozen.

The dairy index increased only 5 points during the month ending July 15. Slight gains were noted in milk, butter and butterfat prices.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS	PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES	AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	- DOLLARS -		- PERCENT -	
				JUNE 15 1950	JULY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	JULY 15 1950
COTTON, LB.....	.299	.331	.308 <i>c/d</i>	.310	.97 <i>c/d</i>	107	
WHEAT, BU.....	1.93	1.99	2.19 <i>c/d</i>	2.21	88 <i>c/d</i>	90	
CORN, BU.....	1.36	1.44	1.59 <i>c/d</i>	1.60	86 <i>c/d</i>	90	
OATS, BU.....	.804	.763	.940 <i>c/d</i>	.948 <i>d/b</i>	86 <i>c/d</i>	80	
BARLEY, BU.....	1.12	1.15	1.46 <i>c/d</i>	1.47 <i>d/b</i>	77 <i>c/d</i>	78	
RYE, BU.....	1.21	1.26	1.70 <i>c/d</i>	1.71 <i>d/b</i>	-	74	
BEEF CATTLE,CWT.	23.70	24.50	17.30	17.40	137	141	
HOGS, CWT.....	17.80	21.50	19.20	19.30	93	111	
LAMBS, CWT.....	24.80	24.60	19.10	19.10	130	129	
CHICKENS, LB.....	.221	.234	.29	.292	76	80	
EgGS, DOZ.....	.301	.342	.506 <i>c/d</i>	.511 <i>d/b</i>	67 <i>c/d</i>	69 <i>a/c</i>	
MILK, WHLSE,CWT.	3.45 <i>c/d</i>	3.57 <i>b/</i>	4.41	4.43	88 <i>c/d</i>	87 <i>a/c</i>	

*a/ Ratio of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices**b/ Preliminary**c/ Revised**d/ Transitional parity, 95 percent of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950*

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1949-50

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES		
		MAR. 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	JUNE 15 1949	MAR. 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	JUNE 15 1949
		CENTS						
SUGAR.....	PER 10 LB.	95.0	95.0	97.0	98.0	96.2	96.2	98.1
FLOUR.....	PER 25 LB.	195.0	200.0	195.0	197.0	199.0	199.0	194.0
BREAD, WHITE.....	PER LB.	14.7	14.8	15.2	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1
CORN MEAL.....	PER LB.	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.53	6.01	6.01	5.7
ROLLED OATS, PACKAGED.....	PER LB.	13.6	14.2	14.2	12.1	12.2	12.2	12.4
RICE.....	PER LB.	16.8	17.6	18.9	16.2	16.6	16.6	18.4
BACON, SLICED.....	PER LB.	51.0	54.0	56.0	51.9	54.2	54.2	57.3
ROUND STEAK.....	PER LB.	79.0	85.0	77.0	76.9	84.7	84.7	78.1
PORK CHOPS.....	PER LB.	54.0	59.0	65.0	58.8	66.1	66.1	65.4
LARD.....	PER LB.	18.7	19.4	19.6	17.3	18.1	18.1	18.9
BUTTER.....	PER LB.	75.0	74.0	73.0	72.1	70.5	70.5	69.4
CHEESE, AMERICAN.....	PER LB.	53.0	53.0	52.0	52.0	52.1	52.1	51.7
COFFEE.....	PER LB.	76.0	73.0	51.0	77.7	74.2	74.2	52.5
TEA, ORANGE PEKOE.....	PER LB.	125.0	125.0	130.0	127.0	129.0	129.0	125.0
ORANGES, 216'S.....	PER DOZ.	39.0	42.0	46.0	47.2	47.4	47.4	52.6
BANANAS.....	PER LB.	14.9	15.1	15.5	17.1	16.9	16.9	17.3
APPLES, FRESH.....	PER LB.	10.6	12.5	15.3	10.6	14.4	14.4	15.7

FOOD PRICES UP FROM LAST QUARTER

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for common food articles on June 15 of this year showed little change from prices paid on the same date a year earlier. Among the items showing an increase during the period coffee and round steak were most outstanding, rising 22 and 8 cents respectively per unit. Flour was up 5 cents and butter and cheese increased 1 cent per unit. All other foods sold below the previous year's price.

Compared with prices farmers paid three months earlier, however, only butter and coffee showed a decline. Butter was down 1 cent and coffee 3 cents per unit. Sugar, cheese and tea prices remained unchanged and all other food items increased. Meats led the increase with steak up 6 cents, pork chops 5 cents and bacon 3 cents per unit from the prices paid on March 15.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1950
WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	JUNE 15 1950	JULY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	JULY 15 1950
- DOLLARS -				
BRAN.....	3.50	3.50	3.18	3.32
MIDDOLINGS.....	3.70	3.80	3.45	3.66
CORN MEAL.....	4.25	4.35	3.50	3.63
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	3.75	3.85	4.00	4.10
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	3.50	3.60	3.58	3.64
18% PROTEIN.....	3.60	3.75	3.72	3.77
20% PROTEIN.....	3.95	4.05	3.83	3.91
LAYING MASH.....	4.85	4.95	4.56	4.67
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.30	4.35	4.00	4.04
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.10	6.00	6.23	6.33

JULY 1 GRAIN STOCKS HIGHER

Stocks of corn on farms in North Carolina amounted to almost 15 million bushels on July 1 of this year. This is about 8 percent below stocks on the same date in 1949 yet the third largest of record. Stocks of slightly over 17 million bushels in 1947 were the highest of record for July 1. Wheat and barley stocks on farms in the State were also below those of July 1, a year earlier. Oats and soybeans were somewhat higher.

In the United States, stocks of corn in all positions on July 1, 1950 were the largest in the 8 years of comparable record for the date. Carryover stocks of oats and barley are smaller than a year ago and also smaller than average. While current wheat stocks are more than a third larger than on July 1, 1949, they are still only two-thirds as large as the record carryover of 631 million bushels in 1942. Rye stocks in all positions on July 1 are nearly 15 percent larger than a year earlier and 3 to 4 times as large as July 1 stocks in 1946, 1947 and 1948. Stocks of soybeans on farms in the Nation were more than one-fourth smaller than July 1, 1949 and about one-sixth smaller than average.

MOST FEED PRICES UP

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for high protein and grain by-products feeds increased slightly during the month ending July 15. Meat scrap was down 10 cents per hundred pounds and bran prices were unchanged but all other feeds were up from 5 to 15 cents per hundred over the previous month's price. (See table at left).

U. S. feed prices followed rather closely the changes in price paid by North Carolina farmers.

JULY 1 GRAIN STOCKS

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES					
	ON-FARM		OFF-FARM 1/		TOTAL STOCKS		ON-FARM		OFF-FARM 1/		TOTAL STOCKS	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
- THOUS. BUSHELS -												
CORN.....	15,996	14,686	236	369	16,232	15,055	1,255	1,166	1,058	468	37,589	36,2,503
WHEAT.....	302	260	126	155	428	415	67,	172	64,	660	240,595	352,143
OATS.....	677	722	21	30	698	752	270,	501	190,	855	24,697	27,431
RYE.....	11	7	*	*	*	*	3,	313	1,973	4,992	7,557	295,198
BARLEY.....	72	50	2	6	74	56	59,	308	31,	305	8,305	9,530
SOY BEANS...	89	158	-	-	-	-	9,	505	6,832	-	100,979	80,838

Note: Stocks shown are from the previous year's harvested crop.

1/ Includes, in addition to stocks in Interior Mills, Elevators and Warehouses and Merchant Mills, commercial stocks reported by Grain Branch, PMA, at terminals.

* Unallocated -- to avoid disclosing individual operations.

FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

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CHICKENS RAISED ON FARMS IN 1950 14 PERCENT BELOW 1949

Young chickens raised on farms in North Carolina in 1950 are estimated at 17,549,000. This is a sharp drop of 14 percent from the 20,406,000 chickens raised in the state in 1949 and is 20 percent short of the 1939-48 average of 21,952,000. Total chickens raised during 1950 is the lowest since 1931. The only other year during this period when the number raised dropped below 18 million was in 1940 when 17,612,000 were produced.

The sharp drop in the number of chickens produced reflects the unfavorable egg-feed price relationship of January which was the lowest in 27 years of record for the Nation as a whole. With this factor confronting them, farmers in the South Atlantic States indicated on February 1 that they expected to buy 8 percent fewer chicks than a year ago. For the Nation, farmers reported intentions to buy 12 percent fewer chicks on February 1.

Young chickens raised on farms in the United States in 1950 are estimated at 670,275,000 - 10 percent less than were raised in 1949 and 14 percent less than the 1939-48 average. The number of chickens raised this year and the number of layers on hand June 1 indicate a smaller laying flock on January 1, 1951 than a year earlier. Although there were 5 percent more layers in farm flocks on June 1 than a year earlier, a 10 percent smaller crop of chickens raised this year will not provide enough young pullets to offset the normal culling this fall, with the result that numbers of layers will be several percent smaller by January 1, 1951, than a year earlier.

HYBRID CORN ACREAGE INCREASES

A total of 764,000 acres of corn, or 34.5 percent of the total corn acreage of North Carolina was planted with hybrid seed this year. This is 84,000 acres more than the last year. The use of hybrid seed corn in the state has grown steadily since 1938 when only 2,000 acres - one tenth of one percent of the total corn acreage - were seeded in hybrids.

The average corn yield per acre in North Carolina has also increased since the use of hybrid seed began. In 1938 the average per acre corn yield in the state was 19 bushels. In 1950, the average yield is expected to be 35.5 bushels per acre. This increase of 16.5 bushels per acre can no doubt be largely attributed to the use of hybrid seed.

However, better cultural practices, heavier fertilization and growing of more plants per acre have also played an important part in increasing the state's corn yield.

A total of 65 million acres, 77.1 percent of the Nation's total corn acreage in 1950 is seeded with hybrids. This is 3.4 million acres less than last year, reflecting the reduction of corn acreage in commercial areas where hybrids are used almost exclusively, and where acreage allotments are in effect this year. In 1933, the first year of the hybrid series, only 0.1 percent of the total corn acreage was planted with hybrids. By 1938, hybrids were planted on 14 million acres, or 15 percent of the total acreage, and in 1943 half of the Nation's corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed.

JULY BROILER PRODUCTION (Continued)

in the Areas during the month totaled 1,963,000 chicks, an increase of 25,000 over the number of chicks placed a month earlier.

Chick placements last month were up 22 percent, compared with July a year ago and the highest of record for the month. Placements during the week ending July 1 reached 490,000, establishing a new weekly record for the number of chicks placed in the two areas. Hatchings, however, declined 6 percent from June to total 1,502,000 chicks.

Despite heavy placements, which set a July record in the Chatham-Wilkes areas, prices of broilers have climbed sharply during the past three weeks. After dropping to 25 cents per pound the first week of May and continuing at 25 to 26 cents until the middle of July, broiler prices jumped to 34 cents per pound by the end of the month. This was the highest price per pound producers have received for broilers since December 1948.

1950 LAMB CROP LARGER THAN 1949

There were 29,000 breeding ewes 1 year and over on North Carolina farms on January 1, 1950. This is an increase of 4,000 over 1949 but 7,000 less than the 1939-48 average.

A total of 31,000 lambs were saved from the 29,000 breeding ewes. This compares with 28,000 lambs saved from 25,000 breeding ewes in 1949. Hence, the number of lambs saved increased 10.7 percent in 1950 over 1949 and the number of breeding ewes increased 16 percent.

The 1950 U. S. lamb crop was about 2 percent smaller than 1949.